

REMARKS

The present application was filed on June 15, 2000 with claims 1-15. Claims 1-17 are pending, and claims 1, 8, 12 and 15 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action dated January 5, 2004, the Examiner: (i) objected to the specification; (ii) objected to claims 13 and 14; (iii) rejected claims 1 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,164,975 to Weingarden et al. (hereinafter "Weingarden") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,587 to Bernardo et al. (hereinafter "Bernardo") and U.S. Patent No. 6,230,171 to Pacifici et al. (hereinafter "Pacifici"); and (iv) rejected claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weingarden in view of Bernardo, Pacifici and U.S. Patent No. 6,589,291 to Boag et al. (hereinafter "Boag").

Regarding the objection to the specification, the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6, has been amended so that it refers to stored program instructions 24. Further, the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 21, has been amended so that it refers to a disk 23, as shown in FIG. 1.

Regarding the objection to the claims, claims 13 and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, so that they depend from claim 12 instead of claim 9.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weingarden in view of Bernardo and Pacifici, Applicants assert that the present application, Bernardo and Pacifici were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by IBM Corp. Therefore the use of Bernardo and Pacifici as §103(a) references is precluded under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Applicants also assert that claims 1 and 6-14 all recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

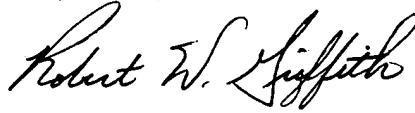
With regard to the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weingarden in view of Bernardo, Pacifici and Boag, Applicants assert that the present application, Bernardo, Pacifici and Boag were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by IBM Corp. Therefore the use of Bernardo, Pacifici and Boag as §103(a) references is precluded under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Applicants further assert that claims 2-5 all recite

patentable subject matter in their own right. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 8 were amended to correct minor errors and more clearly recite the present invention. Claims 15-17 have also been added.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Griffith", written in a cursive style.

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